

REMARKS

This amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated May 18, 2004. No new matter or new considerations are introduced by this amendment. In view of the following remarks, Applicants submit that this amendment should be entered and the application allowed.

Claims 3-10 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsunaga et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,949,502).

This rejection is traversed, and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof respectfully requested. In order to advance the prosecution of this application, claims 1 and 2 have been canceled without prejudice. Therefore this rejection is moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-10 are allowed. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this amendment should be entered, the application allowed, and the case be passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including

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extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bernard P. Codd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'B' and 'C'.

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